# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1245
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2010
EXPENSION OF TELEPHONE SERVICES
Mitra Shri Somendra Nath

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) the achievements made by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for expansion of telephone services in the country including West Bengal during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the target for expansion of telephone services, in Landline, 2G and 3G cellular services in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the achievements made so far are satisfactory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to start expansion work in the interior rural areas of the country?

## Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) The achievement of telephone connections during last three years and current year (upto 30.06.2010) by BSNL in the country and West Bengal circle is given below:

Year BSNL (in lakh nos.) West Bengal Circle (in lakh nos.)

Wireline WLL GSM Total Wireline WLL GSM Total

2007-08 -21.86 10.21 87.80 76.16 -0.92 0.19 3.10 2.37

2008-09 -22.06 8.55 105.02 91.52 -0.89 0.02 4.26 3.39

2009-10 -15.16 7.12 165.94 157.90 -1.45 -0.05 3.27 1.77

2010-11 -8.93 -1.86 34.33 23.55 -0.23 0.01 0.69 0.46

( Achievement upto 30.06.2010)

(b) The circle wise target for expansion of telephone services in Financial Year 2010-11 in landline, 2G, 3G cellular services in the country is given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d) Yes, Madam. The details of the achievements made as on 30.06.2010 against the MOU target is given in the Annexure.

Following action has been taken and planned to be taken by BSNL in the interior rural areas of the country:

(i) BSNL has covered 5,66,333 inhabited Villages with VPT facility out of total 5,93,601 Inhabited villages in the country as per Census 2001 as on 30.06.2010.
(ii) BSNL has entered into an agreement with Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), Department of Telecom, New Delhi to

provide 62,302 (Revised) Village Public Telephones (VPT) under Bharat Nirman in the country out of which 61,718 VPTs have been provided upto 30.06.2010.

(iii) BSNL has entered into another agreement with USOF, DOT New Delhi in February 09 to provide 62443 Village Public Telephones (VPT) in the country in uncovered inhabited villages as per census 2001 out of which 39,281 villages are covered with VPT facility up to 30.06.2010. Balance accessible, undisputed, undisturbed inhabited villages are planned to be covered progressively as per terms and conditions of the agreement.

(iv) Presently 3,80,950 Villages are covered with GSM service. BSNL has planned to cover the villages having population more than 1000 (as per census 2001) progressively in next three years subject to techno commercial viability.